

It can be then provoked in workers in captivity to the extent of obtaining one third fertile, whilst the workers of the same nest in the company of the queen remain sterile. A nest of *Vespa vulgaris*, in which the laying of eggs by the queen had been completely interrupted, yielded more than one half fertile workers, whilst other normal nests, taken at the same time, yielded only sterile workers.

It is evident that in these different cases the fecundity of the workers can only be provoked by the absence of the young brood in the nest and by the upsetting of the equilibrium of nutrition in favour of the adults which results from it.

The production of fertile workers is independent of the bringing up of the queens, contrary to the state of things which, according to Huber, exists among bees. Their fecundity depends upon the nutrition of the imago, and has so much the more chance to develop itself because the worker is hatched after a shorter lapse of time and is nourished in a manner much more intense.

The fecundity of the workers can only establish itself in a nest when the food-collecting section of the community greatly exceeds the larval, or, in other words, when the nutritive condition of the colony reaches its climax, that is to say, in normal nests in the month of August.—*Comptes Rendus*, t. cxxi. pp. 731-734.

*Researches on the Structure, Organization, and Classification of the Fossil Reptilia.*—Part X. *On the complete Skeleton of an Anomodont Reptile* (*Aristodesmus Rüttimeyeri*, *Wiedersheim*), *from the Bunter Sandstone of Reichen, near Basel, giving new Evidence of the Relation of the Anomodontia to the Monotremata.* By H. G. SEELEY, F.R.S.

With the co-operation of the Trustees of the University Museum of Basel and Professor Rüttimeyer the author has examined the fossil described by Dr. Robert Wiedersheim in 1878 as *Labyrinthodon Rüttimeyeri*. The bones are differently interpreted:—

The reputed humerus is the interclavicle.

The reputed scapula is the humerus.

The reputed supra-scapula is the left coracoid.

The reputed supra-scapula is the right scapula.

The reputed right and left coracoids are the pre-coracoid and coracoid of the right side.

The reputed clavicles are the ribs.

Five digits are identified in place of four in 1878.

These osteological identifications are inconsistent with reference of the type to the Labyrinthodontia. The author also examines the relation of the Labyrinthodont type to existing Amphibia, and regards the Labyrinthodont osteology as demonstrating closer relationship with Ichthyosauria and Anomodontia. The group is therefore regarded as reptilian, forming a branchiate division of the class.

The fossil is referred to a new genus—*Aristodesmus*. It is identified as an Anomodont reptile chiefly on the basis of resemblances to *Procolophon* and *Pareiasaurus*. It is shown not to be a mammal by the large parietal foramen, the composite structure of the lower jaw, and presence of the prefrontal bone. It, however, differs from known Anomodonts in making a somewhat closer approximation to Monotreme mammals than has hitherto been evident, and this correspondence extends to successive segments of both the fore and hind limbs.

The teeth are in sockets placed obliquely, with conical crowns compressed to sharp lateral margins, and curved inward. The proportions of the vertebral column are those of *Echidna*, though the transverse processes are longer, as in *Pareiasaurus*. The ribs are like those of a Monotreme, though the sacral ribs are longer. The shoulder-girdle resembles that of *Procolophon*, and differs from all other Anomodonts in the constituent bones being unanchylosed, and in the precoracoid having a large anterior extension in advance of the scapula. The sternum appears to have been unossified, as in Crocodilia. The humerus is widely expanded at both extremities and twisted, but does not show the peculiar lateral curvature seen in Monotremes. The ulna gives no evidence of an olecranon process; it is larger than the radius, and appears to articulate with the humerus. The pelvic bones are without acetabular or obturator perforations, are not anchylosed together, and the ilium is not expanded transversely. The hind limb is no longer than the fore limb. The femur is more slender than the bone in *Echidna*. The fibula is prolonged proximally beyond the stout tibia, round which it may rotate. The proximal row of the tarsus is one large bone, formed of the blended astragalus and os calcis.

In conclusion, the author argues that the points of structure are so few in which Monotreme mammals make a closer approximation to the higher mammals than is seen in this fossil and other Anomodontia, that the Monotreme resemblances to fossil reptiles become increased in importance. He believes that a group *Theropsida* might be made to include Monotremata and Anomodontia, the principal differences (other than those of the skull) being that Monotremes preserve the marsupial bones, the atlas vertebra, and certain cranial sutures. *Ornithorhynchus* shows prefrontal and postfrontal bones, and has the malar arch formed as in Anomodonts.

*Aristodesmus*, which suggests this link, is at present placed in the Procolophonina, a group separated from its recent association with *Pareiasaurus*, and restored to its original independence because it has two occipital condyles, with the occipital plate vertical, and without lateral vacuities, and has the shoulder-girdle distinct from Pareiasauria in the separate precoracoid extending in advance of the scapula.—*From the Proceedings of the Royal Society.* (Communicated by the Author.)